

In re: Mis et al.
Serial No.: 09/966,316
Filed: September 27, 2001
Attorney's Docket No. 9180-5
Page 12

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Actions of November 6, 2002, February 14, 2003, July 18, 2003, and October 18, 2003. Applicants further appreciate the indication that Claims 17-28, 78, and 80 are allowed, and that Claims 3-12, 16, 63-65, 70-73, and 76 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this response, the Applicants have: cancelled Claim 1; amended Claim 2 to depend from Claim 16; rewritten Claim 3 in independent form; amended Claim 13 to depend from Claim 16; rewritten Claim 16 in independent form; cancelled Claim 62; rewritten Claims 63 and 64 in independent form; amended Claims 66-68 to depend from Claim 64; cancelled Claim 69; rewritten Claims 70, 73, and 76 in independent form; amended Dependent Claim 71 for consistency with Claim 70 from which it depends; and amended Claim 81 to depend from Claim 64.

Accordingly, all claims have been placed in a condition indicated allowable in the Office Action of November 26, 2003. The Applicants thus submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. In addition, the Applicants note that all amendments have been made to advance prosecution of the present application to allowance without conceding the merits of any rejections. Accordingly, the Applicants preserve the right to pursue any claims from the originally filed application in a continuing and/or divisional application.

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Attorney's Docket No. 9180-5
Page 13

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

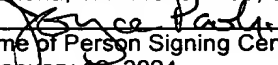
Respectfully submitted,


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Signature: 
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate: Joyce Paoli
Date of Signature: January 19, 2004